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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

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Granholt Administration Supports Free Tax Help in 25 Counties *"Super Saturday" effort to help citizens sign up for Earned Income Tax Credit*

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Treasury and Family Independence Agency are again teaming up with the Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition to promote "Super Saturday" in Michigan. This Saturday, January 29, volunteers at 31 venues across the state will assist qualifying taxpayers in applying for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). In addition "Super Saturday" attendees can receive free tax preparation.

The EITC is a federal tax credit available to low and moderate-income individuals and families. Those who qualify for the EITC can get back some or all of the federal income tax that was taken out of their pay during the year, up to \$4,300.

Last year, the Statewide Earned Income Tax Credit initiative, spearheaded by Lieutenant Governor John Cherry, netted \$32 million more for state residents than the previous year. In total, more than \$1 billion of EITC funds were claimed by Michigan families in tax year 2003, which helped many pay bills and save for the future.

In addition to EITC, there are other federal and state tax credits that can benefit low-to-moderate income individuals and families including the Child Tax Credit and Federal Child and Dependent Care Credit. Michigan tax credits include the Home Heating Tax Credit, Homestead Property Tax Credit and the Child Deduction.

These credits are available to those who file income tax returns and those who are exempt from filing requirements. In addition some credits are retroactive and can be claimed after the normal income tax filing deadline of April 15.

In certain situations the EITC can be available to a working family even if they owe no federal taxes. For example, a married couple raising two or more children in their home in 2004 with income in the \$11,000-\$14,000 range could qualify for a tax credit of up to \$4,300. Families raising children with incomes up to \$35,000 may qualify for EITC as well as childless individuals and married couples with incomes of up to \$12,000. The maximum EITC for a childless individual or married couple is \$390.

"Super Saturday" events will be held in the following counties:

Berrien	Calhoun	Cass	Charlevoix	Genesee	Grand Traverse
Hillsdale	Huron	Jackson	Kalamazoo	Lapeer	Lake
Lenawee	Macomb	Manistee	Mason	Newaygo	Oakland
Saginaw	Sanilac	Tuscola	Van Buren	Washtenaw	Wayne
Wexford					

For more information on "Super Saturday" as well as times and services for each site, call 1-800-VOLUNTEER or visit www.michiganeic.org The EITC Web site also lists free tax preparation service sites that can be accessed throughout the tax season. The AARP also offers free tax help. For more, log onto <http://www.aarp.org/money/taxaide/>

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